

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 and 17 have been amended. Claims 5 and 11-16 have been cancelled. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 17-19, 21 and 22 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTION TO THE TITLE

The title was objected to as not descriptive. Appropriate correction has been made to the title. Withdrawal of the foregoing objection is requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 17-19, 21 and 22 were objected to because of informalities. Appropriate correction has been made to claim 17 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Withdrawal of the foregoing objection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-19, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Atsushi et al. (JP 10-257084) (hereinafter "Atsushi").

Claims 1-10

Amended claim 1 recites: "...wherein the lightpath changing apparatus operates in a manner of one of a galvanometer mirror and a prism." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 5. In contrast to claim 1, Atsushi discusses a half mirror that is shown in Figure 1 of Atsushi. The half mirror disclosed in Atsushi does not anticipate the galvanometer mirror recited in claim 1 as this lightpath changing apparatus operates under differing principles. Further, the Examiner's rejection of original claim 5 on page 3 of the Office Action does not appear to address the galvanometer feature of the present invention.

Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claims 2-4 and 6-10 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 11-16

Claims 11-16 have been cancelled.

Claims 17-19, 21 and 22

Amended claim 17 recites: "...taking an additional image from an additional position and superposing the additional image with the first and second images to generate the processed image." Claim 17 was amended to change "generated" to "generate" in order to overcome the Examiner's objection. In the Office Action, on page 4, claim 17 is rejected based on Figure 1 of Atsushi, which shows first and second taken images being superimposed. In the "Response to Arguments" section of the Office Action beginning on page 4, it is stated that the feature of claim 17 where superposing an additional image with the first and second images to generate the processed image is discussed in paragraphs [0096], [0110] and [0111]. However, it is respectfully submitted that these paragraphs do not discuss the taking of an additional image beyond the two image pickup systems A and B shown in Figure 1 of Atsushi.

Claims 18, 19, 21 and 22 depend on claim 17 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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